

Derbyshire Road Verges Project

Report to Improvement & Scrutiny
Committee – Climate Change,
Biodiversity & Carbon Reduction

5 February 2024



The different challenges of urban and rural verge management

Verges in the towns and villages would be cut fewer times, currently most are cut 6 times a year but some more than 12.

Rural verges would be cut more often. Currently the full verge is cut once every three years.

In all cases the cut material would be collected, removed from site and disposed of elsewhere.

The identification of physical, economic, organisational, and perceptual barriers to change

Just short of 600 people contacted the Verges Project Officer over the summer. 55 expressed dissatisfaction with the project and 527 wrote to support measures to improve biodiversity on Highway verges.

Key discussion areas, in both the for and against groups, were visual appearance, safety, biodiversity emergency and statutory duties.

The identification of physical, economic, organisational, and perceptual barriers to change

Some Districts and Boroughs have already made changes despite the barriers

Others want to change but need help to do it, they have asked for

- Some flexibility to make local decisions
- Guidance on how to go about it
- Support with the financial implications

The identification of potential costs and savings within the framework of the Agency Agreements and what the implications may be of finer local control of verge management

The Agency Agreements cover more than the management of grass verges

The Boroughs and Districts make the budget work by balancing the various outputs and by co-ordinating with their own green space management.

Cutting less frequently on urban verges does not create opportunity for savings without resolving the deposition problem.

An estimation of potential machinery needs, capabilities and costs required to change to a cut and collect system

Purchase of cut-and-collect machinery

Solving the deposition problem

Which verges and how

Drivers for change

Derbyshire County Council Corporate Environment Policy

Highway Network Management Plan

Enhanced Biodiversity Duty

Project recommendations

Actions that can be enacted now by the Highways Service

Actions that require significant input from other services, specialist support or major financial implications.



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